

***Collinsia sparsiflora* Fisch. & Mey.
var. *bruceae* (Jones) Newsom**
few-flowered collinsia
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G4T4S1S2

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1959): Plants annual, 2 to 8 inches tall, simple or often branched, erect, glabrous or minutely spreading-hirtellous. Leaves opposite throughout, the lower petiolate, with broadly elliptic or ovate to subround, often few-toothed blade about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long or less, often deciduous, the others narrow and becoming sessile, commonly linear to linear-oblong or linear-lanceolate, mostly entire, up to about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. Flowers long-pedicellate, 1-3 at each of the upper nodes, their subtending leaves more or less reduced. Calyx $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, the lanceolate to narrowly lance-triangular, acute to acutish lobes prominent, firm-foliaceous, much longer than the tube, commonly concealing much of the corolla tube. Corolla blue-lavender or often white, $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, the tube abruptly bent near the base, forming an oblique angle with the calyx and strongly enlarged on the upper side at the bend. Keel generally somewhat hairy externally near the tip. Upper pair of filaments shortly spreading-hairy over most of their length. Capsule subglobose, $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. Seeds flattened, irregularly wing-margined, evidently cellular-reticulate, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long.

Identification Tips: *Collinsia sparsiflora* var. *bruceae* can be distinguished from other species of *Collinsia* by the following characters: upper filaments pubescent rather than glabrous; calyx nearly as long or as long as the corolla; the capsule subglobose rather than ellipsoid; seeds flattened with a narrow wing margin, rather than turgid with a thickened margin, or flattened with a wide wing margin.

Phenology: The taxon blooms in mid-March through April.

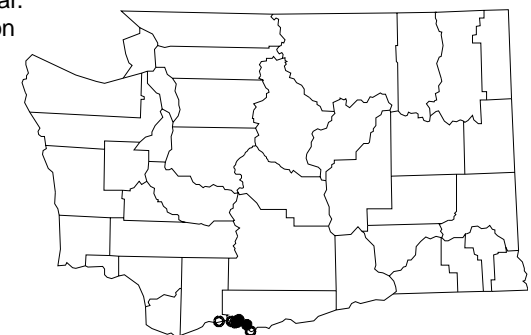
Range: The taxon is known from Klickitat County, Washington to the Snake River Canyon in Wallowa County, Oregon, south to California. In Washington, the species is known only from the Columbia River Gorge in Klickitat County in the transition zone between the Eastern Cascades and Columbia Basin physiographic provinces.

Collinsia sparsiflora* var. *bruceae
few-flowered collinsia



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Known distribution of
Collinsia sparsiflora var.
bruceae in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Habitat: In Washington, the taxon occurs in thin soils over basalt on a variety of slopes, from almost flat to rather steep, generally south-facing, at elevations ranging from 200 to 1000 feet. The microsites are generally quite open, but may be adjacent to or found within open stands of ponderosa pine and Oregon white oak. There is generally a dense herbaceous layer, commonly with *Balsamorhiza sagittata*, *Lomatium macrocarpum*, *Sisyrinchium douglasii*, *Lupinus bicolor*, *Fritillaria pudica*, and *Lithophragma* spp. Weedy annual species such as *Poa bulbosa* and *Erodium cicutarium* are also common. These habitats are moist in spring, but become dry by summer.

Ecology: This taxon occurs within sites that are moist early in the spring, but which dry out by late spring or early summer. Individual plants must be able to take advantage of this relatively narrow window of opportunity to flower and set seed. Competition with other annuals may be a potentially limiting factor. Much of the general area in which the taxon occurs in Washington was grazed for many decades. As a result, weedy annuals dominate much of the potential habitat. Whether or not the populations would increase in the absence of grazing has not been studied.

State Status Comments: The small number of known populations and its limited distribution account for the species' status in Washington.

Inventory Needs: All known occurrences (most have not been visited in 10-20 years) should be revisited. Intensive surveys during March and April are needed throughout Klickitat County.

Threats and Management Concerns: Grazing has been a threat in the past and will continue to be a threat in the future. Residential development in the Columbia River Gorge is also a threat to the taxon.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 4: Ericaceae Through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 510 pp.